



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112  
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending September 18, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

Released September 19, 2011, 4 pm

-----  
*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Fair Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. There was some slight improvement in the weather this week for the state, although it is still too wet in some places for much field activity. The most favorable days for operators to do field work came towards the end of the week. Primary field activities for the week were harvesting apples, chopping corn silage, making hay, and planting of fall seedings. Fall plowing is 29% complete which is ahead of the 28% this time last year, but behind the 5-year average of 32%.

#### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 18, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	57	42

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 97% at the dough stage, ahead of the 91% a year ago and the 5-year average of 94%. Corn is 79% at the dent stage, behind the 82% last year, but equal to the average of 79%. The corn crop is 24% mature, behind the 45% at this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 40%. Corn for Silage harvest is 37% complete, behind the previous year's 76% and the 5-year average of 61%. The barley planting process has begun and is 8% complete far behind the 38% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 23%. The tobacco harvest is 80% complete, compared to the 92% last year and the average of 87%. The potato harvest is 30% complete, compared to 41% at this time last year and the 5 year average of 46%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 51% complete, behind the previous year's 82% and the 5-year average of 55%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 94% complete, behind last year's 96%, and about the same as the 5-year average of 94%. Apple harvesting is 52% complete, behind the 61% last year, but slightly ahead of the average of 51%. The grape harvest is underway and is 10% complete, compared to the 14% at this time last year, and is ahead of the 5-year average of 5%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 14% poor, 37% fair, 35 % good, and 9% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 54% good, and 18% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 25% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 36% good, and 5% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 6% very poor, 23% poor, 24% fair, 41% good and 6% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 13% poor, 24% fair, 44% good and 19% excellent.

**Nationwide as of September 11, 2011:** Below-average temperatures prevailed over much of the eastern half of the United States during the week, a welcomed relief from excessively hot weather during much of the growing season. Most notably, temperatures in portions of the Delta and Southeast averaged as much as 10°F below normal. Elsewhere, late-season warmth and drier conditions promoted crop maturation and fieldwork across the West. Monsoon showers in the Four Corners region benefited crops and boosted soil moisture levels, while the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee dumped a deluge of rain on already saturated fields in many areas east of the Mississippi River. **Corn:** By week's end, 97 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 2 percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Denting had advanced to 84 percent complete by September 11, eight percentage points behind last year but 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Double-digit progress was evident across much of the Midwest, despite cooler weather during the week. Eleven percent of this year's crop reached maturity during the week, but overall progress remained behind normal. By September 11, twenty-nine percent of the nation's corn was fully mature, 21 percentage points—or 8 days—behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 53 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but 15 percentage points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 15 percent of this year's soybean crop was dropping leaves by week's end. This was 20 percentage points behind last year and 12 points, or 6 days, behind the 5-year average. Double-digit delays were evident in 11 of the 18 estimating states, with the most significant delays reported in North Dakota and Ohio. In those two states, a slow planting pace earlier in the season has resulted in slower-than-normal crop development. Overall, 56 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 7 percentage points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** By September 11, winter wheat producers had seeded 6 percent of the nation's 2012 crop. This was 2 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding was most advanced but behind normal in Washington. **Small Grains:** Oat producers had harvested 98 percent of this year's crop by September 11, slightly behind both last year and the 5-year average. Favorable weather conditions in the major barley-producing states promoted a rapid harvest pace during the week. By week's end, 85 percent of this year's crop was out of the fields, 4 percentage points ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

## Weather Data For Week Ending September 18, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 18, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	84	50	63	-3	0.37	1	26.11	5.15	79	2,768	437	4,324
Franklin_AG	82	40	61	-2	1.41	3	29.99	6.69	94	2,687	513	4,251
Meadville-Port	79	43	60	-1	0.49	3	26.71	3.50	94	2,726	733	4,287
Mercer	81	40	60	-3	1.20	4	29.04	6.86	109	2,664	511	4,250
Springboro	82	41	59	-5	0.37	3	29.69	9.19	95	2,375	73	3,905
Warren	82	42	60	-2	0.61	4	26.87	3.53	88	2,482	374	4,034
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	77	34	57	-1	0.45	4	28.51	5.14	98	2,116	580	3,604
Oswayo	79	35	56	-3	0.82	4	26.79	4.73	86	2,100	408	3,608
Kane	78	31	55	-2	0.54	4	31.98	8.24	83	2,018	513	3,513
Laporte	74	37	57	-5	0.42	3	52.85	31.34	93	2,198	40	3,711
Lock Haven	83	40	61	-2	0.69	3	30.24	9.06	79	2,873	584	4,468
Port Allegany	80	38	58	0	0.59	4	28.45	6.39	92	2,258	566	3,775
Renovo	83	40	62	-1	0.54	3	28.95	7.77	89	2,825	536	4,415
Ridgway	79	33	57	-3	0.70	4	26.82	3.62	90	2,272	538	3,810
Stevenson Dam	83	40	61	3	0.45	3	28.05	4.85	73	2,701	967	4,272
Towanda	81	40	59	-3	0.40	2	40.46	22.57	77	2,530	356	4,093
Wellsboro	77	34	57	-2	0.64	3	28.89	10.94	86	2,184	550	3,683
Williamsport	84	43	63	-2	0.98	3	41.23	20.38	81	3,063	540	4,683
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	81	37	59	-2	0.14	1	42.56	22.21	78	2,281	414	3,829
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	39	61	-3	0.39	3	34.67	14.93	83	2,801	407	4,401
Susquehanna	81	39	59	1	0.30	2	39.20	17.53	83	2,401	628	3,955
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	80	37	60	-4	0.51	2	26.77	4.68	89	2,724	471	4,327
New Castle	85	42	64	1	1.81	2	30.55	10.44	88	3,011	756	4,618
Slippery Rock	83	39	61	1	0.51	4	28.82	7.32	89	2,755	726	4,352
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	83	40	62	-1	0.33	2	28.39	9.24	76	3,008	611	4,623
DuBois	76	36	58	-3	1.11	4	29.12	6.93	89	2,553	474	4,115
Lewistown	85	42	63	-2	0.47	5	35.34	14.75	79	3,086	455	4,716
Middletown	85	46	64	-3	0.34	3	46.35	25.94	74	3,394	428	5,057
Prince Gallitzi	80	34	59	-3	0.55	3	29.18	4.51	79	2,558	626	4,111
Selinsgrove	84	40	61	-3	0.91	4	40.04	18.70	84	2,875	413	4,485
State College	81	44	60	-3	0.89	4	30.57	11.22	78	2,885	517	4,481
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	84	42	64	-2	0.65	4	40.32	17.95	75	3,182	469	4,823
Lehighton	79	44	62	-3	0.14	2	37.17	14.98	80	2,744	125	4,364
Matamoras	82	42	61	-2	0.49	2	46.52	24.07	83	2,448	79	4,030
Mt_Pocono	78	40	59	2	0.17	1	44.69	20.82	88	2,392	765	3,945
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	42	62	-2	0.50	3	22.71	2.28	85	3,178	767	4,820
Indiana_PA	79	37	61	-3	0.37	2	30.85	6.93	104	2,788	456	4,394
Myersdale	79	33	56	-8	1.03	3	28.47	5.26	85	2,188	-56	3,740
Chalk_Hill	77	32	56	-10	0.75	3	37.70	14.99	90	2,256	-313	3,817
Pittsburgh Intl	82	39	62	-3	0.33	3	19.16	-0.08	77	3,151	628	4,789
Connellsville	82	39	62	-4	1.10	4	30.34	7.63	99	3,019	450	4,653
Waynesburg	80	39	60	-4	1.46	3	37.98	16.91	83	2,828	488	4,461
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	85	43	65	-3	1.67	3	32.96	13.79	66	3,241	343	4,889
Everett	82	39	61	-4	0.69	4	35.27	16.65	77	2,706	317	4,322
Hanover	86	42	64	-4	1.22	4	31.09	11.92	73	3,196	298	4,838
Harrisburg_AP	85	45	65	-2	0.78	3	44.23	23.82	66	3,396	423	5,057
South Mountain	82	37	60	-4	1.74	3	29.53	10.38	76	2,654	264	4,258
York	85	42	63	-4	1.44	4	36.13	15.50	76	3,202	318	4,861
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	85	44	65	0	0.72	4	34.59	12.90	74	3,194	599	4,842
Hamburg	82	43	63	0	0.89	3	38.81	13.89	79	3,133	759	4,769
West_Chester	86	42	64	-4	0.42	2	34.92	11.43	62	3,222	343	4,873
Lancaster	85	44	64	-2	1.16	4	36.15	14.33	77	3,297	554	4,949
Neshaminy Falls	87	42	64	-2	0.27	2	42.91	17.76	60	3,344	634	4,995
New Holland	86	43	64	-2	0.81	4	35.32	13.50	75	3,257	514	4,900
Philadelphia	88	50	69	1	0.66	2	38.80	17.46	58	3,836	692	5,514
Philadelphia NE	86	45	67	-2	0.29	2	38.70	17.36	65	3,581	437	5,252
Reading	85	46	66	1	1.17	4	33.09	9.77	79	3,470	774	5,136
Sellersville	83	42	63	-3	0.50	2	37.49	15.80	69	2,994	399	4,622
Doylestown_AG	85	45	65	-1	0.95	2	42.50	17.35	73	3,329	619	4,989

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney**

Adams County still has very wet field conditions even after several sunny days and daytime temperatures in the 80's. Wednesday evening strong thunderstorms went through the county some places around Biglerville received 3 inches and other places received only 0.5". Thursday started with some thunderstorms in the morning and was rainy most of the day but not much accumulation. Corn continues to dry down and some continues to grow. Some corn reported as sprouting due to excessive moisture. Not much silage has been chopped yet this year. Early soybeans are starting to lose their leaves and other soybeans are still green. Producers are hoping that the cold temperatures stay away for a little so no frost happens until October. No hay has been made due to field conditions. No additional field preparation for small grain seedings. Apples continue to be picked, though the challenge is getting the apple bins to the trucks to be loaded due to wet conditions. Apple scab and rust are also being reported as affecting the apples this year. Some stink bugs but not as bad as they thought. Other vegetables are being harvested also and getting in the fields to do so also interesting because of wet conditions. Overall the producers are hoping it will dry off so they can get some corn silage harvested and also other crops. The Upper Adams area is getting ready for the annual National Apple Harvest Festival which will be held at the South Mountain Fairgrounds on October 1st & 2nd and 8th & 9th sponsored by the Upper Adams Jaycees.

### **BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier**

The ground dried out enough toward the end of the week to start doing some field work. Corn silage harvest continued and some barley got planted. A good deal of hay was cut, but with short days, heavy dew and intermittent showers, drying is a challenge. One or two may start picking short season corn this week.

### **CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little**

With the fields being so wet, it is being reported that the potatoes are beginning to rot. Corn varies across the county to being very poor to excellent. Location and timing of planting seems to be a key component to the equation.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Wet week, Little field work completed.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner**

Starting to harvest corn silage this week. Also planting wheat, radishes, and some new grass seedings.

### **CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)**

Rain showers the beginning of the week slowed field work but the weekend weather was good for making hay, chopping corn silage, and finishing up projects. Pasture conditions have started to rebound with the cool damp weather.

### **DAUPHIN COUNTY, Eugene Sweigard**

Heavy rain and flooding has destroyed some crops.

### **ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis**

Apple crop has been affected by scab disease. Harvesting of wine grapes has started, Concord grape harvest is anticipated to begin on September 19th.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

A little drying allowed some late silage to be harvested. No ground work done as soil is still wet from recent rains. Pastures are looking good. Apple harvest is moving along, but quality is a problem with some cracking due to the rains. Cool weather has brought on good color.

### **INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff**

Still had a couple of rainy days this past week. It looks like an upcoming rainy week too. Had a slight frost on this past Friday morning. Don't think it hurt any beans or corn. Doesn't look like we will be cutting any hay this week. Getting the combine looked over and ready for when the beans and corn get ready for harvest. Everyone have a safe farming week!

### **LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler**

The sun came out this week starting the process of drying out after the rain and flooding last week. Some of the damaged roads have been repaired. Corn that was flattened during Hurricane Irene sustained additional damage from last week's storm. Damage to pasture fences was discovered. Where they were able farmers cut alfalfa and corn was chopped for silage.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

Most orchards are picking the last of the peaches for this season with Encore being harvested soon. Apple scab is being seen in most orchards and most varieties showing damage from scab at various degrees this season. Corn silage harvesting is at full speed the few days with the break in the weather. I spoke with several farmers in Elk County on Saturday and they are reporting frost damage in some fields.

### **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor**

Another inch of rain this week. Very soggy soils. Can't make hay.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

The corn and soybeans are beginning to mature. Very few field activities were undertaken, due to the saturated soil conditions.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

Cooler temperatures and less daylight signal the coming end of this growing season. Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Some corn seems to be dying prematurely maybe due to disease brought on by the late season wetness.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 18, 2011**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dough	97	91	94
Corn, dent	79	82	79
Corn, mature	24	45	40
Corn silage, harvested	37	76	61
Tobacco, harvested	80	92	87
Potatoes, harvested	30	41	46
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	51	82	55
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	94	96	94
Apples, harvested	52	61	51
Grapes, harvested	10	14	5

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 18, 2011**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	14	37	35	9
Soybeans	0	3	25	54	18
Quality of hay made	25	5	29	36	5
Pasture	6	23	24	41	6
Apples	0	13	24	44	19

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States  
 Department of Agriculture  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Pennsylvania Field Office  
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203  
 Harrisburg PA 17112

FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
--